

What is claimed is:

1. A method for determining whether a subject has a pre-neoplastic or neoplastic lesion in transitional epithelial cells, comprising assaying a diagnostic sample of the subject for ebaf expression, wherein ebaf expression elevated above normal is diagnostic of a pre-neoplastic or neoplastic lesion in transitional epithelial cells.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the pre-neoplastic lesion in transitional epithelial cells is urothelial atypia/dysplasia.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the neoplastic lesion in transitional epithelial cells is a transitional-cell carcinoma of the urinary tract.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the diagnostic sample is tissue, bodily fluid, or a cytological preparation.
5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the tissue is selected from the group consisting of bladder tissue, tissue of the pelvis of the kidney, ureter tissue, or urethral tissue.
6. The method of Claim 4, wherein the bodily fluid is selected from the group consisting of cerebrospinal fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, saliva, serum, and urine.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the diagnostic sample is assayed using an agent reactive with ebaf.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the agent is labeled with a detectable marker.

9. The method of Claim 7, wherein the agent is an antibody.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the antibody is labeled with a detectable marker.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the diagnostic sample is assayed using at least one nucleic acid probe which hybridizes to nucleic acid encoding ebaf.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the nucleic acid probe is DNA or RNA.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the nucleic acid probe is labeled with a detectable marker.

14. A method for assessing the efficacy of therapy to treat a pre-neoplastic or neoplastic lesion in transitional epithelial cells in a subject who has undergone or is undergoing treatment for a pre-neoplastic or neoplastic lesion in transitional epithelial cells, comprising assaying a diagnostic sample of the subject for ebaf expression, wherein normal ebaf expression is indicative of successful therapy to treat a pre-neoplastic or neoplastic lesion in transitional epithelial cells, and ebaf expression elevated above normal is indicative of a need to continue therapy to treat a pre-neoplastic or neoplastic lesion in transitional epithelial cells.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the pre-neoplastic lesion in transitional epithelial cells is urothelial atypia/dysplasia.

16. The method of Claim 14, wherein the neoplastic lesion in transitional epithelial cells is a transitional-cell carcinoma of the urinary tract.

17. The method of Claim 14, wherein the diagnostic sample is assayed using an agent reactive with ebaf.

18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the agent is labeled with a detectable marker.

19. The method of Claim 17, wherein the agent is an antibody.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the antibody is labeled with a detectable marker.

21. The method of Claim 14, wherein the diagnostic sample is assayed using at least one nucleic acid probe which hybridizes to nucleic acid encoding ebaf.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein the nucleic acid probe is DNA or RNA.

23. The method of Claim 22, wherein the nucleic acid probe is labeled with a detectable marker.

24. A method for assessing the prognosis of a subject who has a pre-neoplastic or neoplastic lesion in transitional epithelial cells, comprising assaying a diagnostic sample of the subject for ebaf expression, wherein the subject's prognosis improves with a decrease in ebaf expression in the diagnostic sample of the subject.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein the pre-neoplastic lesion in transitional epithelial cells is urothelial atypia/dysplasia.

26. The method of Claim 24, wherein the neoplastic lesion in transitional epithelial cells is a transitional-cell carcinoma of the urinary tract.

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